



Club Information Handbook

2018-2019 Season

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www.DMESportsAcademy.com

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Club Information

Mission Statement

DME Mission Statement:

Within our world class facilities, DMESA provides high level instruction and competitive opportunities to advance athletic development for our student-athletes, while inspiring character and discipline to better our community.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to produce a highly competitive program in a premier facility while providing the highest standard of integrity and respect.

Principles

1. Train and educate youth athletes in the sport of volleyball by teaching the fundamentals of movement and skill development.
2. Promote the sport of volleyball for all ages and skill levels.
3. Promote diversity and opportunities for all to learn and play the sport of volleyball.

Organizational Goals

1. Provide an exceptional and safe facility for club activities now and in the future.
2. Promote DME Sports Academy by offering a wide variety of training and playing opportunities.
3. Enhance the skill levels of our athletes by providing highly experienced and qualified coaches.
4. Create collaborative partnerships with local and national organizations and corporations to grow the sport of volleyball.

Club Structure

DME's goal is to provide teams for age levels 10U to 18U. DME may have teams at the national, hybrid, regional and local level within each age group. These decisions will be made by DME Club Management based on the levels we can field competitively. The season will run approximately December to June for elite levels and December to May for all other teams.

Club Programs

Adidas Elite Teams (Ages 13U-18U)

November-June

An advanced program for players who intend to take their skills to the next level.

Uniform Includes: (3) jerseys, (2) spandex, (3) practice shirts, jacket, travel shorts or pants, backpack (every other year), knee pads, (1) pair of socks, and a volleyball (one time only, must purchase a new one if you lose yours). All elite team member must purchase team shoes.

Practices: (3) 2-hour team sessions per week

Strength Training: 2 times a week

Travel: Up to 11 events including (3-4) National Qualifiers and (1) AAU National Championship

Memberships Required: USAV & AAU **Tuition:** \$3300.00

All travel and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the athlete and parent.

Adidas Youth Elite Teams (Ages 11U-12U)

December-June

An advanced youth program for players who intend to take their skills to the next level.

Uniform Includes: (3) jerseys, (2) spandex, (3) practice shirts, jacket, travel shorts or pants, backpack (every other year), knee pads, (1) pair of socks, (1) pair of socks, and a volleyball (one time only, must purchase a new one if you lose yours). All elite team member must purchase team shoes.

Practices: (3) 2-hour team sessions per week

Strength Training: 2 times a week

Travel: Up to 10 events including (2) National Qualifiers and (1) AAU National Championship

Memberships Required: USAV & AAU **Tuition 12's:** \$2800.00 **Tuition 11's:** \$2200

All travel and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the athlete and parent.

Adidas American Regional Teams: (Ages 12U-18U)

December-May

An intermediate program for players who wish to advance their skills and play at a higher level.

Uniform Includes: (2) jerseys, (1) spandex, (2) practice shirts, jacket or sweatshirt, travel short or pants, backpack (every other year) and volleyball (one time only, must purchase a new one if your lose yours)

Practices: (2) 2-hour sessions per week

Travel: Up to 9 events including (1) AAU Regional Championship. Tournaments may require overnight stay

Membership Required: USAV & AAU **Tuition 13-18:** \$2500.00 **Tuition 12's:** \$2200.00

All travel and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the athlete and parent.

Youth Adidas American Regional Teams: (Ages 10U-11U) (The 10U team will go January-April)

December-May

An intermediate youth program for players who wish to advance their skills and play at a higher level

Uniform Includes: (2) jerseys, (1) spandex, (2) practice shirts, sweatshirt and travel short, backpack (every other year) and volleyball (one time only, must purchase a new one when 13)

Practices: (2) 2-hour sessions per week

Travel: Up to 8 events including (1) AAU Regional Championship (not 10's). Tournaments may require overnight stay.

Membership Required: USAV & AAU **Tuition 10's:** \$1200.00 **Tuition 11's:** \$1700.00

All travel and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the athlete and parent.

Local Teams: (Ages 10-16)

January-April

An entry level program for players who have limited or no volleyball experience.

Uniform Includes: (2) practice shirts, (2) uniform shirts, (1) spandex, sweatshirt and travel short, backpack (every other year)

Practices: (2) 1 ½-2-hour sessions per week

Travel: Up to 4 events to be hosted at DME or local clubs. No overnight stay will be required

Membership Required: AAU **Tuition:** \$1200.00-1500.00 depending on age level

Club Contact List

Management:

Dawn Moses- Club Director	Dawn.Moses@dmesports.com	440-376-4514
Jill Kornegay- Asst. Spring Club Director	Jill.Kornegay@dmesports.com	386-473-9388
Kathy Young- Administrative Assistant	Young4010@aol.com	386-313-0256
Cindy Wolcott- Office Manager	Cindy.Wolcott@dmesports.com	386-271-3073
Bobby Harrison- Events Coordinator	Bobby.Harrison@dmesports.com	386-254-2153

Club Policies

Athlete Code of Conduct

Participation with DME is a privilege and should be looked upon as such by the athlete. Each member of our teams should exhibit good sportsmanship in his/her actions at all times both on and off the court. Once you have committed to be an athlete in our club, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of athletes:

1. I will display good sportsmanship and respect my competitors, parents, event staff and referees at all times. The use of profanity is unacceptable anywhere and at any time. I will leave all facilities in clean condition and take care of equipment at all times.
2. I am expected to act in a first-class manner and should act with high moral and social standards while representing DME.
3. I am expected to wear DME apparel and it is to be worn at all practices and competitions at all times. It is to be worn in a neat and mannerly fashion (**i.e., shirts tucked in**). Any time I wear clothing with the DME name, I am representing DME.
4. I am expected to refrain from all illegal substances. There will be no consumption of alcoholic beverages, drugs, chewing tobacco, or smoking materials.
5. I will use social media in a positive way. I will not forward or post vulgar messages, texts, or photographs that reflect negatively on me, my team or other individuals of DME. Whenever possible, I will discourage others from postings that could be deemed unflattering or damaging to others.
6. I will report any and all injuries to my coach or Club Management.
7. I will not fraternize with coaches or members of Club Management.
8. I will familiarize myself with general knowledge of AAU and USAV volleyball rules and regulations. I will be an active member of the organization in which my team participates and have a valid membership for the entire season.
9. I understand that rules may be added at the discretion of Club Management should a situation demand it.

The rules outlined here are intended as a guide to successful participation. As a member of DME, I will be expected to understand and abide by these rules and my team's rules. It is my responsibility to follow them to the fullest. **Failure to abide by the rules above may result in suspension or termination from the club and forfeiture of paid tuition.**

Parent Code of Conduct

The parents of DME athletes generally want the same “end result” for their child from the athletic experience. Parents hope their child learns positive traits while participating in sports, among which are:

- Teamwork
- Sportsmanship
- Overcoming adversity
- A sense of positive competitiveness
- Healthy fitness regimens

In order for the child to learn these skills, they need to participate long enough in the activity to gain these valuable lessons. What facilitates this process is parents being very aware of the way they interact with their child, the coach, and other parents. To enhance the opportunity for these goals to be met, we ask our parents to follow the “*Parent Code of Conduct*” as listed below.

1. Allow for only ONE instructional voice for your child.....the coach’s. Shout encouragement at every opportunity for your child and other teammates. However, a steady stream of technique suggestions, advice, or strategies during contests is counter-productive to the coach helping your child have success. Don’t confuse your child with potentially conflicting instruction.
2. Sometimes, an official’s call is hard to take for several reasons. Such times present a test of emotional control on the part of the athlete, the coach and the parent. Parents that loudly harass the official are embarrassing to the athlete and the team. Part of the learning process for the athlete is to occasionally deal with a “wrong” call, accept the responsibility, and move on. Don’t encourage your child to place the blame for their failures upon others. Learning to cope with disappointment is a valuable life skill.
3. Athletics is one of the safest environments for your child to struggle, fail, get back up, move on and learn from these various “hurdles”. Let him/her learn to work them out *without* your interference. For example, a player has every right to discuss with the coach what needs to be done to earn more playing time. Our coaches are child-oriented; they realize that all kids want the opportunity to play and show their skills. Give your child the gift of learning how to work through those questions by not running interference each time a conflict may arise.
4. Support your coach and DME Club Management and stand behind their decisions. Please do not talk poorly about them in front of your child. Your child will still need to work with the coach and his/her teammates in the future; don’t burden them with additional doubt when you talk poorly of the coach or DME Club Management. If you believe you need more data or communication from the coach to answer your question(s), go directly to the coach and arrange an opportunity to discuss your concerns out of sight from your child. Set the example of “being an adult” with issues of like nature.

5. Remember that the opposing players are someone else's child. The other team's players and coaches should be "off-limits" for harassing or mocking. Parents of athletes who intend to disrupt or upset someone else's child exhibit the worst of poor sportsmanship.

As a parent, be involved in a positive way. Attend your child's games as often as you can. Cheer loudly for the kids on the team. Help with the team when asked by the coach. If you're not sure how you can help, ask the coach.

When the larger portion of a team is working well, the experience can be wonderful for everyone involved! Other people and parents who see this type of synergy in action will want to support and be a part of the action. Younger parents will be looking forward to the day when their child is a part of our program. This type of teamwork perpetuates itself, and once it gains momentum, it can be quite a force. It just takes PARENTS who care!

“10 Rules for Parents of Athletes”

1. Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts, and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their lives they can look to for constant, positive encouragement.
2. Try your best to be completely honest about your child’s athletic capability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship, and actual skill level.
3. Be helpful, but don’t coach them on the way to the field, rink, pool, gym or track or on the way back, at breakfast, and so on. It is tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for children to be inundated with advice, pep talks, and often critical instruction.
4. Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be “out there trying”, to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feel for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
5. Try not to re-live your athletic life through your children in a way that creates pressure. You fumbled too, you lost as well as won. You were frightened, you backed off at times, you were not always heroic. Don’t pressure them because of your lost pride.
6. Don’t compete with the coach. You both have clearly defined roles that should complement each other. Encourage your child to respect their coach...they will learn more in the process.
7. Don’t compare the skill, courage, or attitudes of your children with other members of the team, at least within their hearing distance.
8. Get to know the coach so that you can be assured that his/her philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your children under his/her leadership.
9. Always remember children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before over-reacting.
10. Make a point of understanding courage, and the fact that it is relative. Some of us can climb mountains, and are afraid to fight. Some of us will fight, but turn to jelly if a bee approaches. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear or discomfort.

The job of the parent of an athletic child is a tough one, and it takes a lot of effort to do it well. It is worth all the effort when you hear your youngster say, “My parents really helped...they are the best!”

Florida Region of USA Volleyball – 15014 US Highway 441, Eustis, FL 32726

Parent/Coach Communication

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs she/he will participate in some of the most rewarding moments of their life. The memories and friendships they create will last a lifetime.

Modeling behavior is critical in the development of adolescents. DME athletes play by the rules and respect their sport as well as their opponent. The expectation is that DME athletes strive for individual excellence in a team setting while exhibiting the highest level of sportsmanship. The best people to exemplify these qualities are the coaches and parents.

Parent/Coach Relationship:

Being a parent isn't always easy! Being a coach isn't always easy! Frequently, the one common factor is your child who is our athlete. Parenting and coaching, while difficult at times, can also be very rewarding. By establishing a clear line of communication, we can provide a greater athletic experience for the athlete. As a parent, when your child becomes involved in athletic programs, you have the right to understand what is expected of your child and what is expected of you. Also, you have the right to express your expectations of our athletic program.

Communication You Should Expect from the Coach:

Coaching philosophy	Practice schedule and locations
Team goals	Expectations for the season
Team rules	Discipline resulting in denial of participation
Procedures when injured	

Communication a Coach Should Expect from Parents:

Notification of any scheduling conflicts as far in advance as possible!
Absences from practice
Medical conditions or injuries that would interfere with or prevent participation

Concerns that are appropriate to discuss with a Coach:

At times you may recognize a change in your child's behavior. Perhaps it could be associated with athletics. At times it is appropriate to discuss certain issues with your child's coach such as:

Decline in school work	Change in mood or demeanor
Suspected substance abuse	Eating disorders
Extraordinary stress or fatigue associated with athletic participation	
The progress of your child's volleyball skills development	

Concerns that are inappropriate to discuss with a coach:

Playing time	Team strategy
Play calling	Other athletes

Parent/Coach Conferences:

Situations will occur when it is necessary for parents and coaches to meet. These conferences are encouraged so that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. When concerns arise, the initial contact should be made by the parent directly to the coach to arrange for a meeting at an agreed upon time and place.

Substance Abuse Policy

DME has a Zero Tolerance Policy for use of any illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Smoking and the use of any drugs, alcohol or tobacco products are prohibited. Any player caught with drugs, alcohol or tobacco products during any club activity, event, practice, etc. will be immediately dismissed from DME.

Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy

As part of DME Sport Academy's (DME) emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

As with any communication, the content of any electronic communication should be readily available to share with the athlete's family. At the request of a parent or guardian, any email, electronic text, social media (ie. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snap Chat and similar sites) or similar communication will be copied or will include the athlete's parents or guardians. Coaches may not have athletes of DME's Team join a personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official DME's Team page and coaches can communicate to athlete members through the site. All posts, messages, text, or media of any kind between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.

TWITTER, INSTANT MESSAGING AND SIMILAR MEDIA

Coaches and athletes may "follow" each other. Coaches cannot "re-tweet" athlete message posts. All posts between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

EMAIL AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. All email content between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Where the coach is a staff member and/or volunteer, email from a coach to any athlete should come from the club website email center.

TEXTING AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes. All texts between coach and athlete must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

ELECTRONIC IMAGERY

From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other publicly obtainable images of the athlete – individually or in groups – may be taken. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in club videos, posted on club or club associated websites, or offered to the club families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the default policy of DME to allow such practices as long as the athlete or athletes are in public view and such imagery is both appropriate and in the best interest of the athlete and the club.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OR IMAGERY

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches (photography or videography).

MISCONDUCT

Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violations of our DME Sports Academy Club Information Handbook.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of DME's Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor or a DME administrator. Complaints and allegations will be addressed under DME's Disciplinary Rules and Procedure.

Travel Policy

Travel will be a standard aspect of our competitive season and DME has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase athlete safety and improve the competitive experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

Travel Arrangements:

DME does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for travel. Parents/guardians (for minor athletes) are responsible for making all travel arrangements. In these instances, it is the responsibility of the athlete or their parents/guardians (for minor athletes) to ensure the person transporting the athlete maintains all safety and legal requirements, including, but not limited to, a valid driver's license, proper insurance, well maintained vehicle, and compliance with all state laws.

DME staff members, coaches and/or volunteers, who are not also acting as a parent, will not drive alone with an unrelated athlete and should only drive with at least two other athletes or another adult at all times. In any case where a staff member and/or volunteer is involved in the athlete's local travel, a parental release is required in advance.

Coaches, staff members and volunteers who are also an athlete's guardian may provide shared transportation for any athlete(s). We encourage guardians to pick up their athlete first and drop off their athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement. We also recommend completing a shared travel declaration form signed by the parents/guardians of any minor athlete who is being transported as part of such a carpool arrangement.

If a coach or staff member transports an athlete or other organization member in their private car for team travel, a copy of the coach's or staff member's valid driver's license is required.

DME will make efforts to provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones. If, however, you are not able to attend a tournament with your child, you should make arrangements with other parents for your child's transportation and lodging.

Meeting Arrangements:

Parent/Coach or Coach/Athlete meetings will not occur in hotel rooms.

Travel Notification:

When possible, DME will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Notice will include the dates, location and duration of competition. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within DME. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.

DME will post specific travel itineraries when they become available. These will include a more detailed, hour-by-hour itinerary as well as contact information for team travel chaperones. Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling or spouse of that particular athlete). Where an adult is registered both as a coach and an athlete member of DME, and is functioning primarily as a coach, he or she may share sleeping arrangements with another registered coach.

Coach and Staff Responsibilities:

During team travel, coaches and staff members will help athletes, fellow coaches and staff members adhere to policy guidelines, including, without limitation, the Travel Policy. When not practicing, training, competing, or preparing for competition, coaches and staff will monitor the activities of athletes, fellow coaches and staff during team travel. Coaches and staff will:

- a. Prepare athletes for team travel and make athletes aware of all expectations. Supplemental information will be given to parents/guardians of athletes who are considered inexperienced travelers, new or relatively new to team travel, or who are under the age of 14.
- b. Familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before the initiation of team travel.
- c. Conform and monitor others' adherence to the Athlete Protection Policy and all policies during team travel.
- d. Encourage minor athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians.
- e. Help athletes be on time for all team commitments (as possible).
- f. Assist with team travel logistical needs (as possible).
- g. Support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary.
- h. Ensure athletes are complying with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements.
- i. Make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult apart from a family member; this includes coaches, staff and chaperone.
- j. Not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching duties.
- k. Immediately report any concerns about physical or sexual abuse, misconduct, or policy violations.
- l. Notify parents before taking any disciplinary action against a minor athlete if the athlete is traveling without his or her parents.

Chaperone Responsibilities:

Chaperones accompany team travel to ensure that the athletes, coaches, staff, and volunteers adhere to DME's policy guidelines. While these include the travel policy, it also includes all other relevant policies contained in DME's Participant Information Handbook.

If a chaperone has not undergone a criminal background check and DME's awareness training, the chaperone will not be permitted to have any one-on-one interactions with athletes or other youth participants. If a chaperone has undergone a criminal background check and awareness training, he or she may have appropriate one-on-one interactions as outlined in DME's Participant Safety Handbook.

If a chaperone will be operating a private car for team travel, a copy of the chaperone's valid driver's license is required.

Chaperones will monitor the activities of all coaches, staff members, volunteers and athletes during team travel. Specifically, chaperones will:

- a. Familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before team travel.
- b. Monitor adherences to club policies during team travel.
- c. Encourage minor athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians.
- d. Help athletes be on time for all team commitments (as possible).
- e. Assist coaches, staff and other volunteers with team travel logistical needs (as possible).
- f. Monitor athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary.
- g. Ensure athletes comply with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements.
- h. Not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their chaperone duties.
- i. Make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult apart from a family member; this includes coaches, staff and chaperones.
- j. Immediately report any concerns about sexual and physical abuse, misconduct or policy violations to a DME administrator.

Due Process/Grievance Procedures

DME encourages the athlete to take responsibility for their participation. For this reason, we expect the player to talk to the coach first when she/he has a problem concerning their playing time, or if she/he is unclear about what the coach expects from him/her, either in practice or in a competition. The appropriate way to do this is for the athlete to ask the coach what she/he needs to do to get more opportunities to play in matches. These "coaching decisions" include, but are not limited to, specific match decisions such as who played when, where, and how long. The coach will not be required to defend his/her strategy or conclusions in the determination of playing time, and it is improper for a parent to request justification.

Concerns about our policies or a coach's decision(s), should be addressed in the following order:

1. The athlete is encouraged to speak or meet with the coach to discuss the matter.
2. The parent and athlete should schedule a meeting to speak or meet with the Head Coach. Meetings are to be at times and locations other than tournaments/practices. If a coach is approached by a parent during a tournament, they have been instructed to refuse to discuss any controversial matter, to refer the parent to the Club Director and to walk away from the situation.
3. Complaint in Writing. If the parent or athlete is still not satisfied with the outcome, a complaint can be submitted in writing within 30 days and should include specific details that are relevant. This correspondence to Club Management will be reviewed and handled on a case by case basis.
4. The parent may speak to the Head Coach and the Club Director. In most situations, the management will ask the athlete to also attend the meeting. Meetings should be previously arranged. Meetings will not be scheduled during a tournament. The Head Coach or the Club Director will not engage in discussions about "coaching decisions."

The 24-Hour Rule

DME requests that parents/guardians refrain from addressing the coach, approaching the bench or discussing playing time or technical coaching issues during the event. Coaches are instructed and trained not to discuss these issues during events (including but not limited to practices, games, clinics, and travel). The process for such discussions is as follows:

1. 24-hours following the conclusion of the event, contact the coach to request a meeting.
2. Parent, player and coach can meet to discuss issues specific to this player only.
3. Coach will report results of meeting to Club Management.
4. Parent may request a meeting with Club Management.

DME Club Release Policy

If asking to be released between August-November

- Athlete must pay for all gear the club ordered for the athlete, including but not limited to uniforms, shoes, backpacks, and balls unless the club can utilize them for another athlete at which time the club will keep those items.
- Club will keep all deposits and any/all payments made up to the date the athlete requests to be released in writing.

If asking to be released between December-June

- Athlete must return all gear the club provided to the athletes this season, including but not limited to uniforms, shoes, backpacks, balls and financial aid
- Athlete must remit all financial obligations agreed upon contractually in the participation agreement
 - 100% of tuition for season (excluding any season ending injuries)
 - Stay and Play Hotel obligations if club is already under contract

If asking to be released after participating in a National Qualifier Event for DME (Regional or NQ)

- Athlete may not be released for the rest of the season to another club. Please refer to the USA Volleyball (USAV) policy on releases on athletes that participate in regional or national qualifying/bid events. Please refer to the Girls' Junior National Qualifier/Spring Championships/Championships Manual.

Each Club Release Policy must address the USA Volleyball (USAV) policy on releases on athletes that participate in regional or national qualifying/bid events. Please refer to the Girls' Junior National Qualifier/Spring Championships/Championships Manual

Practice and Tournament Rules and Regulations

Practice Rules:

1. Court time is valuable and should only be used for development of skills. All warm-ups and conditioning should take place outside of the scheduled 2-hour court time. Warm-ups will begin 15 minutes prior to the scheduled court time. Early arrival time should be used to get ready for practice (equipment and stretching). All players are responsible for shagging balls at practice.
2. Horseplay by athletes at practice or tournaments is strictly prohibited. Be respectful of all facilities.
3. All athletes are expected to make every effort to attend all practices. Only an illness serious enough to keep the athlete home from school or a genuine family emergency are legitimate excuses for missing practice. Regardless of the reason, if an athlete misses a practice, her playing time may be affected.
4. If an athlete cannot be at practice, it is the athlete's responsibility (not the parent's) to reach the coach before the practice starts.

5. The closed practice policy applies to practices but does not apply to scrimmages in which parents are welcome. For 10 -12's teams, parents may watch practices during the months of November and December and the first practice of the month January-June. For all 13 & older teams parents may watch the first practice of each month, beginning in January.

Tournament Rules:

1. Athletes should arrive at their assigned court 1 hour prior to start time.
2. Athletes will not be allowed to leave the tournament site until excused by the coach. Except in cases of true emergency, an athlete who has an officiating assignment may not leave a tournament before the assignment is completed. Officiating is the shared responsibility of the entire team.
3. All DME players are required to wear their DME warm-ups or uniforms when entering and leaving the playing sites.
4. All athletes are expected to attend every tournament. It is the athlete's (not the parent's) responsibility to inform the coach as soon as they are aware of an absence, if an athlete cannot be at a tournament.
5. Parents and players are responsible for arranging their travel and hotel stays.

Uniforms and Equipment

Apparel consisting of spandex, jersey(s) and practice t-shirt(s) will be given to each player as part of their fees. Warm-ups are provided to Adidas Elite Teams age 13 and over, while the younger athletes will receive cover-up shorts and hoodies. The cost of apparel is included in the club tuition and must be worn while representing DME at sanctioned events, while officiating and at planned practices.

DME will supply facilities, volleyballs, ball bags, net systems, equipment, first aid kits, etc. Care should be taken when using and supervising this equipment.

Updates

We recommend you check our website regularly. Parents are encouraged to sign up for Text/Email Alerts from the Coach and/or the Club Directors.

Sometimes we are forced to cancel a practice due to situations beyond our control. If this is required, we will send out a text message as soon as possible. We will try with all due diligence to reschedule these practices later in the season.

Our website address is www.dmesportsacademy.com.

Club Season Information

Memberships

All players are required to register with AAU and have a notarized AAU Medical Release prior to tryouts. The DME club code (**WY6C59**) will need to be added to the AAU membership card. Athletes will also need to purchase a Florida Region of USAV membership, add the club name of DME Holdings, LLC, and have a notarized USAV Medical Release on file. **Team rosters can only be built once the proper club selection has been made.** Memberships provide a supplemental insurance policy for your daughter/son.

Tryouts

Tryouts will be held for all age levels (8U-18U) and may include teams that will compete in National, Regional and Local tournaments. Our high school athletes will tryout in late July and early August, followed by the younger athletes in late September or early October. Players will be placed in roles that are best for the team as well as the individual player. There will be a non-refundable tryout fee of \$50 per athlete. This fee will be good for all tryouts.

Selection Criteria

We select athletes based on the following criteria: ability to be coached, a team player, athletic ability, athletic potential, work ethic, competitive attitude, and/or experience.

Team Selection

Elite, National and Regional level tryouts will be conducted at the same time. Athletes will be notified by email, phone, or website. The athletes must accept the position within 24 hours and will be expected to pay their initial deposit (\$500) and will be asked to sign the Participation Agreement at that time. The Athlete will need to sign an Athlete Code of Conduct and their Parent/Guardian will be asked to sign the Parent Code of Conduct, Media Release, Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy, Handbook Acknowledgement and Travel Chaperone Policy.

Size

The number of players on a team may vary up to 12 players. However, DME plans to limit each National team to 10 players, to maximize playing time.

Playing time

Our philosophy is that you are purchasing training time. This training occurs primarily in practice and secondarily in tournaments. All playing time is at the discretion of the DME coaches, and is not subject to negotiation.

ALL ATHLETES NEED TO COMPLETE THE ENTIRE SEASON TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELITE TEAMS THE FOLLOWING YEARS.

Financial Responsibility

Fees

It is the responsibility of the parent to complete and have on file an Automated Clearing House (ACH) form or ensure that all payments issued to DME arrive on time pursuant to the payment schedule. The alternative payment method to the ACH must be pre-approved. As of the second of the month, a \$35 late fee will be applied. Payments made by check should be made payable to DME Sports.

It is the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation, meals and lodging for all events.

NOTE: Uniforms will be distributed in January. Any player not current with DME fees will NOT receive a uniform and will not be able to participate until fees are up-to-date.

Your fees will cover the following:

- Coaches registration and fees
- Facility costs, insurance, general liability
- Practice time – minimum (2) 2-hour weekly practices
- Equipment (balls, med kits, etc.)
- Uniforms and team issued apparel
- Administrative fees
- Website exposure
- Tournament entry fees
- Designated travel expenses for coaches and club management
- Sports Recruit recruiting website and service
- Recruiting Coordinator
- Strength training for Adidas Elite teams

Refund and Dispute Policy

All payments made to DME are non-refundable. Please refer to our Payment Schedule for due dates and amount required for each team.

Any Dispute financial or other with the club must be submitted to DME Club Management team in writing. All disputes must include complete documentation submitted within thirty days of incident and will be handled on a case by case basis.

DISPUTE POLICY ORDER:

1. The athlete should first speak to the coach about the matter. If the matter remains unresolved, or the athlete has a reasonable concern that speaking to the coach will not resolve the matter, then move on to Step 2.
2. The parents should speak or meet with the coach. Parents and/or athlete should contact the coach via the telephone or email to set up a meeting time (never during a tournament).
 - A parent should never approach a coach at a tournament. We have instructed the coaches to refuse to discuss any controversial matter, and to refer the parent to the Directors. The coach will then walk away.
 - The recommended time for a parent to schedule a meeting is usually before or immediately following a scheduled practice. If the matter remains unresolved or if the parent has a reasonable concern that speaking with the coach will not resolve the matter, then proceed to Step 3.
3. The parent may speak to the Director(s) and request a meeting with the coach(es) and Director(s) together.
 - In certain situations, DME may request the athlete to also attend.
 - Meetings must be previously arranged. This will not take place at a tournament site.
 - The Director(s) will not engage in discussions about coaching decisions.

Parents/players/coaches are not permitted to use the DME logo, copy the logo or have team t-shirts or other outerwear made for a team without prior permission from Club Management.

In the event of an exceptional, unforeseen circumstance, DME reserves the right to amend this handbook to better serve the needs of the program.